

After the Shots...

Your child may need extra love and care after getting vaccinated. Some vaccinations that protect children from serious diseases also can cause discomfort afterwards.

Here are answers to questions many parents have after their children have been vaccinated. If this sheet doesn't answer your questions, call your healthcare provider, or seek appropriate medical attention.

Vaccinations may hurt a little...but disease can hurt a lot!

Seek medical attention right away if you answer "yes" to any of the following questions:

- Does your child have a temperature that your healthcare provider has told you to be concerned about?
- Is your child pale or limp?
- Has your child been crying for more than 3 hours and just won't quit?
- Is your child's body shaking, twitching, or jerking?
- Is your child noticeably less active or responsive?

And remember...

All children, babies through teens, need well child visits and screenings for growth and development. These services are free and covered by Medicaid health plans. Please call your healthcare provider to make an appointment. If you do not have an established healthcare provider, work with your Medicaid health plan to find one in your area.

What to do if your child has discomfort

I think my child has a fever. What should I do?

Check your child's temperature to find out if there is a fever. An easy way to do this is by taking a temperature in the armpit using a digital thermometer (or the method recommended by your healthcare provider.)

Additional steps you can take to help reduce fever include:

- Give your child plenty of fluids.
- Dress your child lightly. Do not cover or wrap your child tightly.
- Give your child a fever or pain reducing medicine such as acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol) or ibuprofen (e.g., Advil, Motrin).
- The dose you give your child should be based on their weight and your healthcare provider's instructions. **Do not give aspirin.** Recheck your child's temperature after 1 hour.
- Call your healthcare provider if you have any questions or seek appropriate medical attention.

My child has been fussy since getting vaccinated. What should I do?

After vaccination, children may be fussy because of pain or fever. To reduce discomfort, you may want to give your child a medicine such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. **Do not give aspirin.**

If your child is fussy for more than 24 hours, call your healthcare provider or seek appropriate medical attention.

My child's leg or arm is swollen, hot, and red. What should I do?

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the sore area for comfort.
- For pain, give a medicine such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. **Do not give aspirin.**
- If the redness or tenderness increases after 24 hours, call your healthcare provider, or seek appropriate medical attention.

My child seems really sick. Should I call my healthcare provider?

Do not wait to get care for your child. If you are concerned about how your child looks or feels, call your healthcare provider, or seek appropriate medical attention.